

THE MERCHANT MARINE

COMMISSION IN SESSION AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Senator Gallinger Talks of Policy of the Steel Company—Other Speakers.

A dispatch from Cleveland, Ohio, last night says: With a huge American flag in the background, the members of the merchant marine commission, seated at a big table in the library room of the chamber of commerce, listened to addresses of welcome and remarks of prominent citizens of Cleveland and vicinity on the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine.

Mayor Johnson welcomed the visitors to the city and expressed the hope that much good to the merchant marine would result from the pending investigation.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire, chairman of the commission, responded.

Mr. Gallinger said that he was not unmindful of the fact that this city was the home of the late Senator Hanna, and paid him a glowing tribute. He also referred to the "great service rendered by that distinguished man, Mr. T. E. Burton, as chairman of the rivers and harbors committee of the House."

But one American ship.

The speaker referred to the fact contained in these present reports of the merchant marine commission, that during the month of January 272 vessels passed through the Suez canal, and only one of them carried the American flag.

"So far as the Great Lakes are concerned, no subsidy is needed," said Senator Gallinger, "but when it comes to our foreign commerce, it is entirely different. We do not know exactly how we will proceed to rehabilitate the American merchant marine, but we are trying to learn how to do it."

Charles Grosvenor was the next speaker. He disclaimed any idea that the members of the commission were men who had their minds already made up. He said that the commission had their own ideas in regard to subsidies. When any movement is made to subsidize the merchant marine, it is killed in the United States. He spoke of how the lake commerce had been benefited by Congress in the way of subsidies. As an example he gave the improvement made in channels on the lakes, and referred to the Cleveland breakwater.

An interesting feature.

One of the interesting features brought out at the hearing was a statement by James C. Wallace of the American Shipbuilding Company. He said that American steel was delivered at a cost of \$10 a ton, while the same steel cost purchasers in this country \$12 at Pittsburgh. He was immediately questioned by members of the commission, and he stated that this authority for the statement came from the assistant sales agent of the Carnegie Steel Company, who gave as his reason for the difference the cost of the steel in the United States.

Among the other speakers were Harvey D. Gould, George Myron T. Herrick, Charles L. Pack, and Captain A. B. Wolvin of Duluth, a prominent lake vessel manager; Robert Bandlow, a member of the legislative committee of the United States and Labor Council of Cleveland; P. Prentiss, Alexander E. Brown, W. D. Sayre, prominent manufacturers of Cleveland, and P. E. Casper, manufacturer of Canton, Ohio. All except Bandlow favored financial encouragement of the American merchant marine.

This evening the members of the commission are being entertained at dinner at the Country Club.

NEW CHURCH EDIFICE.

Christian Endeavorers to Build One in Southeast Section.

It is expected the Christian Endeavorers of the District will begin in a few days the erection of a new church of the denomination named at the corner of 15th and D streets southeast. This will be the sixth church of the denomination in the District. The balance of the fund necessary to erect the building was pledged last evening at the annual meeting of the union, held in the Street Christian Church. There is \$500 in the treasury for this purpose, and up to last night \$700 more had been pledged. Seven hundred and fifty dollars more was pledged at the meeting, where the building was announced that the building would be begun immediately.

The officers of the union were re-elected. They are: H. S. Welch of Ninth Street, president; Miss Ardelle Payne of Whitney Avenue, vice president; Arthur M. Kitchen of M Street, secretary; and Andrew Wilson of Vermont Avenue, treasurer.

A social hour with the Ninth Street society as host followed the business meeting.

Turks Attack Armenians.

A cable from London last night says: The Constantinople correspondent of the Times says that, according to consular reports from Erzerum, forty-five Armenian revolutionists crossed the frontier and were attacked by the Turks. They lost thirty-seven killed. Three hundred Armenians are said to be collected on the other side of the frontier, and 300 Turks are prepared to oppose their incursion.

Bonilla Rules Honduras.

A dispatch from New Orleans last night says: The constitutional convention of the republic of Honduras is now in session. Its first action was to approve all the acts of President Bonilla. He will have the authority to extend his term for four or ten years, and as he will be elected president under the new constitution he will serve twelve years.

News Briefs.

A special from Lake Placid, N. Y., says that fire broke out in the large barn connected with the American House at Newmarket, the Lake Placid railroad station, shortly after midnight. The barn was destroyed and also a quantity of lumber and several small buildings.

Tornado Killed Two.

A dispatch from Homestead, Neb., last night says: A severe storm, which killed two persons, today killed three and caused the severe injury of five others. The dead are: Two children of R. J. Harris, six and nine years old.

Mrs. Harris, their mother, fatally hurt. The five injured are also members of the Harris family.

C. Johnson, twice convicted in the Norfolk county court on the charge of forging the will of his dead wife, was yesterday sentenced to serve a term of two years in the penitentiary. Counsel for Johnson, who is one of Portsmouth's best-known citizens, will make an effort to secure a pardon for his client.

Anacostia News.

Albert, the thirteen-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, residents of lower Glebeboro, was made ill yesterday by swallowing a quantity of coal oil from a cup which the child found while crawling about the house. The oil was about to be used in filling a lamp. The little one displayed such symptoms of illness that the father was compelled to summon Dr. Parker from Oxon Hill, Prince George's county, Md., by whom the child was attended.

Mr. Thomas J. Moore of Morris road, who was named by the local democratic convention as one of the alternates to the St. Louis convention, has made arrangements to accompany the party to St. Louis.

Dr. James A. Watson will be unable to attend.

The annual picnic of the Sunday school of the Anacostia Methodist Episcopal Church was held yesterday on the grounds at Congress Heights.

Verdict of the Jury.

After pointing out the duty of the different officers and persons named, and their failure to perform their duty, the jury said: That the president, Frank A. Barnaby; the secretary, James K. Atkinson, and the board of directors of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, namely, Frank A. Barnaby, Charles E. Hill, James K. Atkinson, C. De Lacey Evans, Robert K. Story, Floyd S. Corbin and Frank G. Dexter, were guilty of criminal negligence in the failure to properly equip the General Slocum with fire-fighting and life-saving appliances.

That Edward Flannagan, the mate, acted in a cowardly manner, and was recommended that he be held criminally responsible for failure to perform his duty on the General Slocum on the day of the disaster.

That on the day of the disaster the misconduct of Henry Lundberg, the government inspector, in failing to report to his superiors the true facts concerning the vessel, and the neglect and carelessness of the harbor master, Captain A. B. Wolvin, and the failure of the fire-fighting and life-saving appliances on board said boat.

That the captain, William H. Van Schalk, be held criminally responsible for the accident.

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